

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

6843

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 ACDA-12 HA-00 DCT-02 SY-05
SYE-00 AID-07 EB-00 DMB-01 TRSE-00 CIA-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICE-00 INRE-00
PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-05 10-15
CEA-01 STR-10 NEA-07 DOE-17 JEE-00 AGRE-00 /161 W
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O 031610Z NOV 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5628
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 8098

USCINCSO FOR UNTAFF

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CU, JM
SUBJECT: SEAGA SWORN IN ADDRESSES THE NATION

1. SUMMARY. EDWARD SEAGA WAS SWORN IN AS PRIME MINISTER NOVEMBER 1. IN HIS REMARKS HE SPOKE FRANKLY OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FACING JAMAICA AND SAID THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO LAST UNTIL NOVEMBER 5. HE ENCOURAGED THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) TO BE AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION BUT WARNED THAT ANY CONTINUED AFFILIATION WITH THE "LUNATICLEFT" WOULD ENDANGER THE TWO PARTY STEM. SEAGA SPOKE OF REMOVING THE POLICE, PUBLIC MEDIA AND PUBLIC SPENDING FROM POLITICAL INFLUENCE. DESCRIBING HIS PARTY'S VICTORY AS A REJECTION OF THE LEFT. AND A HARD BLOW FOR COMMUNIST INTENTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE PROMISED TO FOLLOW MODERATE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICES HE SAID HE WISHES TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CUBA BUT THAT CUBAN AMBASSADOR ESTRADA MUST BE WITHDRAWN. SEAGA SAID HE WILL KEEP THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE PORTFOLIO TO HIMSELF, AND NAMED FORMER PRIME MINISTER HUGH SHEARER AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (HE ALSO WILL BECOME MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) THE PRESENT GOVERNOR GENERAL A PNP APPOINTEE WILL STAY ON. END SUMMARY.

2. EDWARD SEAGA ON NOVEMBER 1 WAS SWORN IN BY GOVERNOR GENERAL FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE AS JAMAICA'S SIXTH PRIME MINISTER BEFORE A ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE AT KINGS HOUSE. THE TONE OF THE BENEDICTION AND THE REMARKS BY GLASSPOLE AND SEAGA WERE CONCILIATORY REGRETTING THE LONG AND VIOLENCE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CALLING FOR NATIONAL UNITY AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE.

3. SEAGA ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDED TO NAME FORMER PRIME MINISTER HUGH SHEARER AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THE NEW PRIMISTER STRESSED THAT HE AND SHEARER HAVE WORKED PRODUCTIVELY TOGETHER IN THE PAST WHEN JAMAICA HAD ITS MOST PROSPEROUS YEARS. SEAGA SAID SHEARER WOULD NOT BE AN ORDINARY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF HIS EXTENSIVE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE. (COMMENT: SEAGA IS EXPECTED TO NAME SHEARER AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHEN HE ANNOUNCES HIS CABINET CHOICES

AFTER THE ELECTION RETURNS ARE FINAL LATER THIS WEEK. (END COMMENT) SEAGA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL HOLD THE PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF FINANCE HIMSELF AND THAT HE HAD ASKED GOVERNOR GENERAL FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE TO REMAIN AND THAT GLASSPOLE HAD AGREED.

4. IN HIS COMMENT ON THE ECONOMY, SEAGA WARNED THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD AND THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE AND EARLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS THAT NATION FACES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HIS PARTY SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN OPERATE WITH BROAD SUPPORT AT ALL TIME IN ORDER TO BEGIN A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESTORE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY IN JAMAICA. ON OCTOBER 29, HE SAID, THE BANK OF JAMAICA VIRTUALLY RAN OUT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND ONLY THE RECEIPT OF US\$10 MILLION FROM IRAQ HAD KEPT THE COUNTRY IN THE BLACK. THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEEDS UNTIL NOVEMBER 5, THE ECONOMIC GAP FACING JAMAICA FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1980 IS ABOUT US\$155 MILLION HE SAID, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER SAID BUT DID NOT REVEAL ANY DETAILS THAT HE HAD ALREADY "INITIATED" DISCUSSION AND TAKEN CERTAIN STEPS TO CONCLUDE SOME ARRANGEMENTS AND TO INITIATE NEW ARRANGEMENTS " TO FINANCE PART OF THE GAP IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HIS GOVERNMENT, HE POINTED OUT, WAS THE FIRST IN JAMAICA'S HISTORY TO HAVE TAKEN OFFICE WITH AN EMPTY TREASURY. LIKE THE FIRST LEADER OF THE JAMAICAN LABOUR PARTY (JLP) WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO BEGIN FROM "SCRATCH " TO BUILD THE COUNTRY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE 25 JUN 1982

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 8098

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5. TURNING TO SUPPLIES OF FUEL AND FOOD, SEAGA SAID THAT CURRENT FUEL RESERVES WOULD LAST ONLY UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER AND THAT HE PLANNED CONCLUDE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER NEGOTIATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF FUEL. REGARDING FOOD, HE SAID THAT HE WAS STILL CHECKING ON THE EXTENT OF SUPPLIES BUT NOTED THAT SOME RICE WHICH HAD BEEN SENT FROM THE JAMAICAN FREEDOM LEAGUE A JLP AFFILIATE IN THE US WOULD BE RELEASED. (THIS RICE WAS IMPOUNDED BY THE PNP GOVERNMENT UPON ITS ARRIVAL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.)

6. REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY, SEAGA REPEATED HIS WELL KNOWN POSITION ON CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA ULISES ESTRADA. HE SAID THAT A MESSAGE HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING HOPE FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHILE INDICATING THAT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ESTRADA IN JAMAICA WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTIVE TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND REQUESTING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ESTRADA. SEAGA ALSO DESCRIBED HIS PARTY'S VICTORY AS A "HARD BLOW" FOR COMMUNISM INTEREST IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CLAIMED THAT RADIO MOSCOW HAD BROADCAST THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD LOST AN ALLY IN HIS REGION. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER PLEDGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL "NOT HAVE HOSTILE RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FORA OF THE WORLD" AND WILL SEEK GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

7. ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE NATURE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, SEAGA PROMISED TO OFFER A PRINCIPLED CREATIVE SANE, AND PURPOSEFUL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WILL OFFER A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS NO QUARREL WITH THOSE SEGMENTS OF JAMAICA SOCIETY WHICH ARE THE ROOTS OF JAMAICA DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. HE SAID HE WILL HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE SECURITY FORCES, THE CIVIL SERVICE NOR THE BUSINESS SECTOR. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THE PNP TO BE A "GOOD AND EFFECTIVE" OPPOSITION BECAUSE JAMAICA'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT NEEDS TWO SIDES TO HAVE IT WORK. HE ENCOURAGED THE PNP NOT TO BE DISMAYED BY ITS NUMBERS. THE CHOICE BEFORE THE PNP IS TO RETURN TO THE MODERATE POLICIES IT HAS HAD IN THE PAST. OR TO CONTINUE TO

AFFILIATE WITH THE "LUNATIC LEFT" WHICH HE WARNED WOULD ENDANGER THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM IN JAMAICA. SEAGA EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PARTY OF MODERATION INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REFORMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH BENEFIT THE DISADVANTAGED WHO NEED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM. SEAGA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROCEED ALONG THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD BECAUSE BEING ON THE LEFT OR RIGHT WAS TO BE IN THE "GUTTERS" HE PROMISED TO ESTABLISH IMPARTIAL COMMISSION WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA, THE SECURITY FORCES, PUBLIC SPENDING AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCARCER BENEFITS.

8. SEAGA CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY QUOTING FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS. CALLING LINCOLN ONE OF HISTORY GREATEST LEADERS, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THERE IS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE HE WANTED TO QUOTE. "WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL, WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT".
LAWRENCE

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